26th February 1929]

Industries

Development of the wood distillation industry.

* 1507 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : With reference to the answer given to my question No. 166 answered on 5th September 1928, will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state what steps have been and are being taken for the development of the wood distillation industry ?

A.—It is understood that the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun, proposes to undertake a review of the whole field of the charcoal industry in India with a view to deciding on the most suitable type of kiln for this country, and is collecting data in localities where charcoal is now being chiefly burnt. The Institute proposes to take up the investigation into the question of destructive distillation of wood later as the erection of plant in connection with it would be an expensive matter. It is proposed however to carry out preliminary enquiries into the uses for the large quantities of charcoal that would be produced, and to ascertain likely markets for the by-products produced. If as a result of these preliminary investigations it is found that there is a future for the industry a comprehensive project is proposed to be prepared by the Institute together with the lines on which the question will be further studied. This Government propose to await the results of these investigations before taking any steps in the matter.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" May I enquire, Sir, how Government have come to know that the Forest Institute, Dehra Dun, is going to undertake all this work ? Is there any correspondence ? "

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" The Director of Industries has reported on the matter."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" Will the hon. Minister be pleased to give more definite information regarding the scheme ? "

The hon. Mr. M. K. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" It is a very long report and I shall show the report to the hon. Member if he wants."

Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI :—" Does the Government propose to give any aid to the industry ? "

The hon. Mr. M R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" As soon as the survey of cottage industries is made the question will be considered."

Development of the wood distillation industry.

* 1508 Q.—Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI : Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether the possibility of wood distillation industry is being investigated by the Forest Department;

(b) whether any expert has been employed for the purpose ; and

(c) whether the Government contemplate sending any one to learn the industry at Bhadravati, Mysore ?